plates, provided approximately 0.72 m (2 ft.-4 ½ in.) clearance between the bottom of the girder and the laboratory floor.

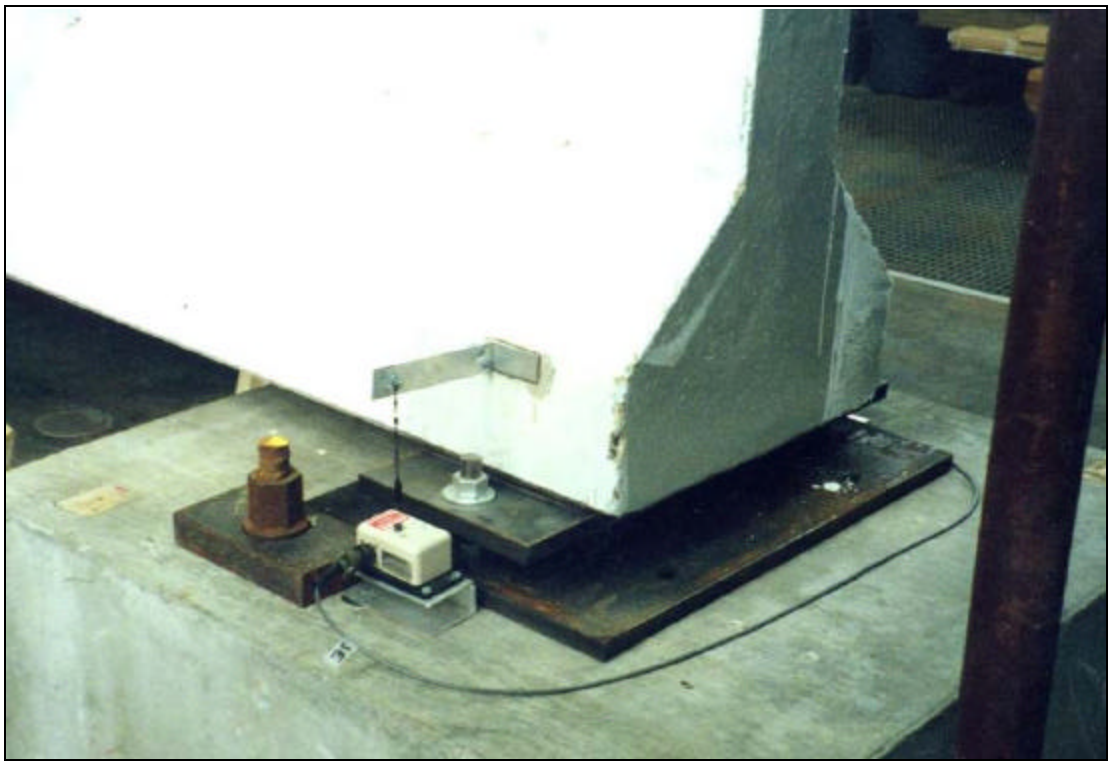

Figure 3.2 Bearing Pad Support Assembly

The loading frame was designed to carry an upward axial load of 2,669 kN (600 kips) which was chosen as the design load in order to accommodate the 1,779 kN (400 kips) fatigue capacity of the actuator. The frame, shown in Figure 3.3, consists of two W30 x 108 columns that support two W36 x 182 reaction beams. The frame was anchored to the laboratory floor at a location such that the actuator would apply the load at the midspan of the girder. The design and fabrication of the test frame has been described in detail by Ellen (2000) and Longo (2000).